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GIVE THE SUPREME COURT RELIEF

When the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia finds its calendar 900 cases behind, as a chronic condition, these cases coming from litigants all over the United States as well as from the District, when the number of judges has been increased by one in thirty-six years while the business of the court has been increased more than 200 per cent, it would seem that the mere recital of these facts should be enough to call the attention of Congress to the necessity for passing the Overman-Carlin bill, providing for two additional associate justices of this important court.

Justice without sale, denial, or delay, is one of the traditions of Anglo-Saxon law. The amount of work before the court makes delay unavoidable, delay in a decision is often a denial of justice and even tends to its sale, when the litigant with the longer purse is able to profit by delay for which the court is not responsible.

Give the court the relief it needs, not only for itself, but for the business of the District and of the nation.

THE WOMAN'S DIVISION BILL

A bill which has been favorably reported in both Houses of Congress creates a Woman's Division in the Department of Labor, similar to the Children's Bureau. As that bureau is designed to investigate and report upon matters pertaining to children and child life, so the Woman's Division will have the special task of looking after the welfare of the working women of the country. They form 20 per cent of the workers. They are mostly unorganized and in most States have not the protection which the ballot gives the workingman. Many States have passed laws protecting the women workers, as men protect themselves by organization and political action, against too long hours, too low a wage scale, and unfair and unfit conditions of labor. The Federal Government does practically nothing for the woman worker as such. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has devoted about 4 per cent of its appropriations to her welfare.

The House bill provides for a chief of the division, an assistant chief, and a force of twenty agents and clerks with an appropriation of some \$40,000. The Senate bill as amended in committee cuts this amount down a third or more. Still, much can be done with what is granted and the bill should pass in one form or another. It can be brought up in the Senate almost any time. It is hoped that it can be reached in the House under suspension of the rules today. Especially if the nation is involved in war should there be some central governmental agency to look after the welfare of the woman workers. The Secretary of the Navy has already put in a call for them. Lloyd George, when he became minister of munitions, put an experienced woman factory inspector in charge of the factories with autocratic powers to reform bad conditions. And while the laws won with so much patience and struggle for the welfare of woman and child wage-earners have all been suspended, in the stress of the labor shortage in England, yet the interests of the worker have been looked after in this way. The creation of the Woman's Division in the Department of Labor will be a step in the right direction.

NO NEED FOR PANIC

The latest forecast of a celebrated authority on the polar regions, "In thirty days from now Washington may be in ashes," need alarm no one who recognizes how frequently famous men succumb to the temptation of notoriety.

If the skies fall we shall certainly catch larks. Admiral Peary's lurid picture of a tramp steamer from a foreign power taking its station on the Maryland coast and sending a flock of twelve aeroplanes, each laden with a thousand pounds of high explosives to drop upon our defenseless Capital City, may frighten kindergarten children, and is therefore to be deplored and rebuked. So far as reaching American shores is concerned, the German navy is practically as non-existent as the Swiss navy. There is no thirty-day peril from Great Britain or France, just now, and the warships of the allies seem pretty effective on the other side of the pond, while the American navy might possibly have oversight of our own coasts, so far as an irruption of hostile tramp steamers laden with aeroplanes and dynamite is concerned.

THE WIZARD COGITATING—BEWARE!

The most important news of the day, from the preparedness point of view, is the retirement of Edison to Eagle Rock, where he will indulge in a few twenty-four hour sleepless jags and emerge with some war invention to astonish the world. What form will the new device for ending the war assume? Will it be a new torpedo on which one has only to write the name and address of a German super-dreadnaught and launch it on this side of the Atlantic with the certainty that it will reach its destination? Will it be a thought-wave telephone that will reveal the innermost secrets of the Kaiser and his generals, as well as of hyphenate conspirators in this country?

Will it be a new Edison electric contraption that will progressively explode all the ammunition of a hostile army or fleet when pointed in their direction? Will it be a new kind of sororific gas that can be wafted at will across the trenches and camps of the enemy, rendering them helpless as against capture and perhaps permanently mending their dispositions? Or will it be a powerful magnet that will draw to

the sensationalism of the press. Observation would teach the lesson that its most sensational performances are the reporting of the foolish and frequently licentious speech of public men.

WOMEN AND WAR

Would that every member of the Women's Peace Party and other ultra pacifists would read carefully the statement of Mary Austin, arch feminist, in which she gives her reasons for quitting that organization. Mrs. Austin is an idealist. She has demonstrated that in such books as "Love and the Soul Maker" and in that interesting study of the human side of Christ's life, "The Man Jesus." In her explanation of why she quit the pacifists she shows how idealism may be tempered by sound common sense.

Mrs. Austin states that the danger of woman's participation in political life is the possibility that she might place the special interests of her sex above those of humanity as a whole. She says:

Women have always opposed war, primarily because it threatens their special interests more than the interests of any other class. War takes the lives and livelihoods of men, but it never deprives them of their place in society, their special privileges and obligations as men. But for every man who is killed or hopelessly maimed, some woman, voluntarily or not, resigns her chance to become wife or mother, or is deprived of her importance to society by the destruction of her special product.

Thus, in Mrs. Austin's opinion, it is not sympathy or sentiment, or pity for loss of life, that is the foundation head of some women's opposition to war but they are advocates of "peace at any price" because that price is less than the price of war. Her advice to women is this:

Whenever a people finds the principles of its social constitution at stake, then it is time for that people to leave off acting as men and women, and act collectively as human beings. For women at such a time to stand for their special woman views is to lose what women everywhere have worked so hard for, their right to be considered as political factors, quite apart from their womanhood.

Such a sane conclusion, so clearly expressed, is commended to the deliberate consideration of suffragists (especially those who are puffing the White House), pacifists, and all the other "ists," whose advocacy of a special interest may be no less patent than the special interest they charge the munition makers with having in urging war.

TRADE BATTLES AFTER THE WAR

More significant than the columns of dispatches today about the British advance on the Ancre front, or the other shifting battle lines, is the brief announcement that the entente nations are planning another economic conference in Rome in April.

That Germany means to wage an economic struggle after the war has closed has been plain enough. A previous conference of the entente powers indicated that co-operation in the same sort of commercial mobilization was to be expected from the nations which have fought side by side against the central powers.

With the economic strife of Europe the United States has no more concern than it has with military operations so long as this nation's rights abroad are not flouted. But the United States is in a "Rip Van Winkle" state of mind if the need for commercial and industrial preparedness is not as clear by this time as is the need for military preparations for national defense.

The United States must play a part in the coming economic warfare. Its part will not be that of an ally of one group of nations or another. Rather its part will be to keep control of the world trade it has achieved, and play the independent role in world commerce its recent expansion has made possible.

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the appointed spot, like the mysterious mountain of the Arabian nights, steel-clad war-vessels and helpless submarines, and then proceed to extract all metal armament and apparatus as deftly as a skillful dentist a useless tooth? Whatever it may be, Old Man Edison is thinking it out right now. Let nobody interrupt him.

ANOTHER ARGUMENT FOR RECIPROCITY

Another feeder line, for the Washington market, that will bring a now rather isolated section of Maryland into intimate touch with the Capital, has been authorized by the county commissioners of Prince George's county.

A concrete road to open the entire northern end of the county, which now has poor road facilities, has just been authorized by the commissioners, and the work will be pressed. The new road will be known as the Shoemaker road, and it will in effect provide another great highway from the State of Maryland to the Capital and to Washington markets. The road will run into and form a continuation of Rhode Island avenue, which the District is improving to the District line. In addition it will provide a fine short cut to the Baltimore boulevard from any section of Washington.

Truck growers in Maryland and general farmers, and the people of the District who will find much use for this road, need reciprocal license privileges for motor cars to get the maximum benefit, another argument for the passage of the new District motor law as provided by a Senate amendment.

WHY SHOULD SUCH AMERICANS HAVE VOTES?

The pacifist denunciation of that feature, in particular, of the Chamberlain bill which proposes that no employer may hire any citizen who cannot show a certificate of military service or of excuse therefrom for cause calls attention to the fact that in this respect the measure is not above criticism. It does not go far enough.

Why should any American who is unwilling to do his bit under a democratic system of universal military training enjoy equal rights and privileges with an American who does his bit? This point is particularly pertinent in view of the fact that the Government would give in return for the entirely reasonable six months' training period—required prior to the years of the individual's great economic usefulness—more than an adequate return in body, brain, and character building.

A proposal for a Constitutional amendment to disqualify from holding public office or voting those who were unwilling either to undergo military training under the proposed law or to defend their country in case of war would be more appropriate.

Lincoln used to complain that all the best generals were editing newspapers. Now the men who know all about running newspapers have become statesmen or college presidents.

Germany is fighting for the freedom of the seas, but that does not mean the freedom of anything that floats upon them.

William Randolph Hearst remarks that "any thoughtless, heedless, reckless demagogue can project a nation into war." However, we haven't had war with Mexico yet.

If the Kaiser had possessed a grain of humor he would have known that his suggestion to turn American vessels into floating barber shops would not appeal to our people.

The only "leak" mystery remaining is the identity of Senator O. Initial or exclamation?

When Wilson and Willcox met, some one was cruel enough to suggest that the one owed his election to the other.

With all the various prohibition bills now before Congress and the amendments thereto, it is a green law maker who will not be able to square himself with both sides.

Whether Ambassador Gerard spoke of Kingdom Come or another region his pious or profane remark seems to have been understood.

Will the grant of suffrage by Congress to the women of Porto Rico be deemed an encouragement or an insult to American suffragists?

Fifty thousand applicants a day for American citizenship indicate that the Fatherland is a good place to avoid permanently.

In the absence of Cabinet gossip at this season due to the fact that no changes are contemplated or to the feeling that it makes little difference who sit around the tables so long as the head of it is there?

WILL ENTERTAIN BOY SCOUTS.

Arthur C. Jones, president of the Washington Council of Boy Scouts, will entertain the local scout commissioners, scout masters, and scouts at this home on Washington's Birthday. The scouts will bring their lunches and various games, including a treasure hunt, will be played during the afternoon. Washington's Birthday is a holiday in the public schools, so that a large attendance of boys is expected.

Don Marquis' Column

I saw some devils to and fro
Wandering the earth:
Something seemed to please them so
That they shook with mirth.

"What's this," I asked one merry bum,
"This jest you love so well?"
"Oh, we're getting hints in Belgium
For stunts to pull in hell!"

"The children" tie a lot of people
together who might otherwise get un-
married and find other partners to be
miserable with.

The Kaiser is an advocate of earth control.

We hear the Kaiser is going to do
without civilization again this year
during Lent.

Port Said.

A bit of the East, and a bit of the West,
And the end of the world's end,
And a bit of the worst and a bit of the best,
And a bit of a dream and the hint of a quest,
And misery and sorrow in merri-
ment dressed
At the end of the world's end.

And this I had dreamed in the hal-
cyon days
At the end of the world's end.
And this was mine own. In the tor-
turous ways
Flowed the colors of life, but the
draws the drays
Were drowned in the crimson and
lost in their maze.
At the end of the world's end.

And only the good and the greatness
was there—
At the end of the world's end.
And the perfume of incense was sweet
in the air.
The smile of a woman, the rose in her
hair—
But far off I heard a low cry of
despair—
A wee, little, choked, little cry of
despair—
At the end of the world's end.
—EDMUND LEAMY

Add similar: As discouraged as
a frog catcher in the Desert of Sahara.

Who They Are.

Sir: I'm the guy that wears his
clothes four or five years, until they
"shine" and Friend Wife insists that
it she again insists that I shouldn't
get a new suit. And when I get
wear it, because I'll get shined up in
no time like—no old ones. H. H.

German measles are no longer had
by the patriotic young.

French Without a Struggle.

I like a lively restaurant,
And the liveliest of the sort
Is that lively little restaurant,
The old Rat Mort. —Muley.

More French Without a Struggle.

She gets such lovely gifts from
gentle
Honi soit qui mal y pense.

This is an extravagant age.
A fat man of forty will pay hundreds
of dollars to get rid of a tum that
it cost him hundreds to acquire.

BRYAN AND DANIELS WOULD'N'T LET IT HAPPEN.

Sir: Am in receipt of a leak—can
you confirm it? Hear Woodrow Wil-
son is about to declare another Jihad
with the battle cry this time: "Wil-
helm! alive or dead!" If it is true,
what's the betting in your little cir-
cle on Wilhelm's future?—H. E. W.

One of the most interesting places
in the world to observe human na-
ture is near the telephone in the
corner of a barroom about 7 in the
evening. At that hour men bethink
them to call up their wives and ex-
plain just why they have been de-
tained at the office and will be late
to dinner.

Really enterprising barkeepers now
have a plausible story that will fit
any man neatly typed and pasted on
the wall just over the telephone, and
man after man uses it, with slight
variations. These typed stories are
changed every day. Some authorities,
however, hold to the view that it is
better to have just one story and
stick to it.

We observed one gentleman the
other evening who seemed more lucid
to himself than he seemed to others.
He called up home six times within
thirty minutes under the impression
that he was squaring things for the
whole week in this manner: he wanted
to get the week's stories all off his
mind at once and not be bothered with
them for awhile. But something must
have gone wrong with the system.
For we heard him confiding to a
friend, after the sixth call, that no
matter what pains men take to be
considerate of women, women are en-
tirely unreasonable.

We heard of another pathetic case
recently. Mr. A. at the phone, sud-
denly dropped the instrument and
called in a pleading voice to his
friend, Mr. B.

"Please come and take me away
from this phone—quick!"
"Why, what is the matter, old
man?"

"I've told my wife four different
stories about where I am—and I can't
quit tellin' 'em!"

Linotype Larry met Hermione on a
recent trip to Bermuda.
"Somehow," the lady told him, "I
am never seasick. Although I am at
times below my normal self, if you
get what I mean, I never have sea-
sickness. I believe that the chief cause
of seasickness is the lack of self-con-
trol or will power. When I board a
vessel I tell my inner soul that I shall
be well, and I always am."

The Squad Still on the Job.

Sir: I don't want to monopolize
the whole column, but I think you
ought to know that the following are
all glaziers:

Charles Glasser, 202 West Twenty-
eighth street.
Henry Glasser, 109 West Broad-
way.

German Glasser, 30 East Twelfth
street.
Israel Glasser, 473 Pearl street.
Morris Glasser, 29 Roosevelt street.
S. H. Glasser, 1809 Amsterdam ave-
nue. L. H. T. (Scout 987654).

Lines to a German Economist.

You've bragged of your efficiency,
Can you turn hate into wheat?
You've flouted your G-I efficiency—
Sit down to it now.
DON MARQUIS.

Commercial Problems As Result of European War

A Non-Technical Explanation of the Big Questions Confronting Business Men At This Time of World's Upheaval.

By SAMUEL WANT.

Considerable misapprehension exists among business men engaged in international commerce as to the subject of convoy, the arming of merchant vessels, and the use of other measures to overcome submarine operations.

It is not correct, as generally supposed, that it would be an act of war on the part of this country to use its war vessels for the convoy of merchant ships through the so-called "barred area." The caution displayed by this country and other neutrals in adopting that effective measure of safeguarding shipping is based principally on the fact that in the absence of convoy, neutral merchant vessels might be attacked and even sunk under certain conditions which would prevent such action from violating the principles laid down by this country, whereas if the vessels are convoyed, the convoy constitutes an American guaranty against molestation under any conditions whatsoever, and the exercise by the Germans of even the conceded right of attack would be tantamount to an attack upon the warships constituting the convoy, and thus constitute a provoked act of war.

Logically, therefore, while the convoy is not in itself an act of war, its necessary operation will amount to that unless Germany is to immediately agree to refrain from all submarine activity where merchant vessels are under convoy.

As to the arming of merchant vessels for their own protection it is probable that this can only be done under authority of specific Congressional legislation. There is no such legislation on our books at this time, and in the absence of proper governmental authority a merchant vessel which is armed for the purpose of attacking submarines or interfering with submarine operations would be treated by the Germans as engaged in piracy. This would render all on board liable to be shot as pirates.

Of course, similar principles prevent private vessels from acting as submarine chasers or in any other war-like capacity, in the absence of action by the Government making the vessels arms of the American navy.

NIELSEN MENTIONED FOR SOLICITORSHIP

President Expected to Appoint Man for Important Post in Few Days.

President Wilson is expected shortly to nominate a successor to Cone Johnson, of Texas, who has resigned as solicitor for the Department of State. In view of the tremendous amount of highly technical work which has developed upon the office on account of the war, there is lively speculation as to whom the President will name.

Not only is the solicitor's office charged with the work of assisting American shippers in getting proper redress before the prize courts of the various belligerents, but it will be its task at the conclusion of the war to assemble the millions of dollars' worth of American claims that have been accumulating for loss of life and property at the hands of the warring powers.

Mr. Johnson was appointed solicitor during the regime of former Secretary of State William J. Bryan. Without any preliminary training his principal qualification appears to have been that he was a "deserving Democrat." Owing to ill health he was absent from the office much of the time during his incumbency, the work of his office falling upon the shoulders of subordinates.

Nielsen Mentioned.

Among those who have been mentioned as a possible successor to Mr. Johnson is Fred K. Nielsen, assistant solicitor of the department, who has been connected with the office for a number of years, and is well known in the Capital as a successful football coach of local college teams. Although a comparatively young man, he is regarded as an expert on international law, being a graduate of the University of Nebraska. During the last year he has practically run the office of solicitor.

Another mentioned for the place is Lester H. Woolsey, one of the assistant law advisers of the department, but in view of Mr. Nielsen's longer service and greater familiarity with the work of the solicitor's office, it is thought more likely that he would be named by President Wilson.

Formerly Bryan's Secretary. Among those understood to be active candidates for the place is Mantion W. Wyvell. Mr. Wyvell has been a candidate for a number of places. For a while he was private secretary to Mr. Bryan, when the latter was Secretary of State. In 1914, while still Mr. Bryan's private secretary, he ran for Congress in New York, New York, being defeated by a majority of some 12,000 votes. Subsequently Mr. Bryan had him appointed counsel to the foreign trade advisers, but for a time Congress failed to provide any salary for the place. Subsequently the oversight was remedied, and Wyvell went to London to straighten out some matters affecting American trade interests. He did not remain there long. He is said to desire now the place of solicitor of the State Department.

What course the President is going to pursue is not known. There are other candidates for the place—men with strong political backing. Some of the President's advisers, however, are of the opinion that he will want a trained man in the place.

LEE BRITAIN'S FOOD CHIEF.

Sir Arthur Lee, British military attaché here during the Spanish-American war, and now member of Parliament from Hampshire, has been appointed director of general food production of England, according to word received today from London. He is well known in this city, where he served with the rank of lieutenant colonel while attached to the British embassy. The new director's work will embrace co-ordination of the seed, fertilizer, foodstuffs and labor distribution.

FUND FOR ST. PAUL'S CHURCH GROWING

Three Thousand Dollars Needed in Campaign by Wednesday Night.

The half-way mark in the \$50,000 in fifty days campaign of St. Paul's Catholic Church is the goal set for the first half of this week by the 230 solicitors engaged in the canvass. The financial barometer of the campaign was boosted to the \$22,000 mark today, and the sum of \$5,000 is confidently expected to be reached by Wednesday night. When \$25,000 has been pledged work on the towers of the church building, Fifteenth and V streets northwest, will be started. The interior decoration and the installation of two side altars and a pipe organ will follow as quickly as the amount of the fund warrants commencement of the work.

The St. Paul campaign is limited entirely to the parishioners of the church, living within the territory bounded by Ninth and Twenty-fourth and Q and Harvard streets northwest. The raising of the full amount from the 230 parishioners of the church is a matter of parish pride, and all indications now point to the accomplishment of the task by the end of the campaign, March 22.

The solicitors met in the church hall Wednesday night to report on the progress made and outline work for the latter part of the week. Next Sunday night the men of the church are invited to attend a mass meeting in the hall to devise means of making the last twenty-five days of the campaign productive of the necessary balance to complete the \$50,000.

Many Contributions Reported.

The church hall last night was packed with enthusiastic parishioners, and many contributions were reported. Brief remarks were made by Admiral William S. Benson, U. S. N., and James A. Cahill, representing the lay members of the church, and by the Rev. Father James E. Krug, on behalf of the clergy.

The enthusiastic spirit of the solicitors was reflected in the remarks of Edward Cryer and Miss Mary Taylor. Andrew I. Hickey, chairman of the general fund committee, presided.

"LINCOLN'S AX" IS FOUND

Missouri Woman Says Rail Splitter Gave It to Kinman.

About 2,000 houses have been listed as domiciles in which George Washington slept, and now there has been brought to light in Missouri an ax described by the implement used by Abraham Lincoln to split rails. Its owner is Mrs. Savala Vandevender, who says the ax was given her uncle, William Smith, by Lincoln when they worked together in Gentry county, Ind. This was just prior to Lincoln's removal to Illinois.

O. H. Oldroyd, superintendent of the Lincoln Memorial at 516 Tenth street northwest, said: "I have heard of at least a dozen different axes in Illinois and Indiana that are said to have been the property of Lincoln. Of course, he might have owned them all, but we do not believe it would be to our benefit to get any of these, for their history has not been satisfactorily established."

WOULD BE WAR COOKS

Colored Women to Offer Services in Event of Hostilities.

That the colored women of Washington will offer their services to the United States Government as cooks, should this country go to war with Germany, was the decision made at a meeting of the Women Wage-Earners' Union, held last night in the Columbia Academy, at Seventh and T streets northwest, when the members voted to volunteer their services either as a body or individually. The Women Wage-Earners' Union numbers professional women, nurses, cooks and laundresses among its members, all of whom are not only willing, but competent to help out, said Miss Jeanette Carter, president of the union.

RUTH LAW ASSERTS U.S. LAGS IN FLYING

Chicago-New York Aviatix, in France, Inspects Aerial Depot Near Paris.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—"America is years behind in aviation equipment," declared Miss Ruth Law, American aviatix, today, after her first flight in a French "war plane" and a detailed inspection of one of France's aerial depots near Paris.

"I am perfectly amazed at what I have seen," the heroine of the Chicago-New York flight declared. "I hope to remain here for a month to watch this marvelous air service, and I want to fly over a battlefield, if it is possible for me to obtain permission."

With Miss Law on her visit of inspection was William Thaw, the American flyer in the French flying corps.

Miss Law said she was searching for the type of French aeroplane best suited for her own use in the American "war," or trans-continental flight. She said she was certain to compete in this flight, either as a racer against men aviators or as a pathfinder.

FINGERS WORTH \$50,000.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Dorothy Gray, who uses her fingers in an attempt to make new millionaires, wives out of old ones, has insured her fingers for \$50,000, her press agent declared here today. It is learned from the same source that "Miss Gray has developed velvety little mounds of flesh on the tips of her finger," and that is what makes her price prohibitive to every one but the very wealthy.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled Today.

Lecture, by Dr. William Cabell Moore on "Her Inheritance," before gymnasium classes of Y. M. C. A., 7:45 p. m.
Informal meeting and banquet by Bottle-makers' Iron Ship Builders of America, Local Lodge No. 60, Hotel Vermont, 8 p. m.
Address by Israel Belding, at Adath Israel Temple, Sixth and I streets northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of executive board of Parents' League, Wilson Normal School, 8 p. m.
Masquerade, Washington Stenographer, 214 C street northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of National Federation of Postoffice Clerks' local, Ninth and F streets northwest, 8 p. m.
Dance and supper for benefit of Congregation Academy, home of Mrs. J. J. Mehan, 308 Twenty-first street northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Law Committee, Washington Postoffice Clerks' Association, 8 p. m.
Potomac Bank Hall, 8 p. m.
Recital by Nevitt Quartet, College Woman's Club, 124 F street northwest, 8 p. m.
Mardi Gras ball, Washington Club, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Raleigh, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Officers' Training Corps, Home Club, 1:30 p. m.
First annual indoor horse show, Washington Riding and Hunt Club, at academy, Twenty-second and P streets northwest, afternoon and evening.
Meeting, Monday Evening Club, to discuss "Charities Enforcement as a Means of Promoting Efficiency and Standardization," Y. M. C. A., 8 p. m.
Concert, Marine Band Orchestra, Marine Barracks, 2:30 p. m.
Lecture, by Dr. C. E. R. Wray, under auspices of the Society of the Fine